Maid servant in the custody of French authorities

1572. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maid servant of one of our officials in Indian Embassy at Paris is still in the custody of French authorities;

(b) if so, what is being done to bring her back;

(c) if not, where is she now; and

(d) whether any inquiry has been made in this case and what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The maid servant of one of our officials in the Indian Embassy at Paris is in the care of French authorities.

(b) to (d) Government have taken up the matter with the French Government. However, the matter is sub-judice with the French courts.

Enquiry report from Government of Nepal on hijacking incident

1573. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nepalese Government had conducted an inquiry into airport security in Kathmandu regarding hijacking of an Indian airlines plane;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has asked Nepal for a copy of its inquiry report for revealing important clues on hijacking;

(c) whether Government have also asked for the inquiry report;

(d) if so, whether the same has been received and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) His Majesty's Government of Nepal had constituted a five-member highlevel committee headed by former Inspector General of Police, Hem Bahadur Singh, on December 25, 1999 to investigate security-related issues at the Tribhuvan International Airport following the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 on

December 24, 1999 from Kathmandu. The committee submitted its report on January 24, 2000. The Government of India are yet to receive the committee's report since it has not been made public so far. The Government are not aware whether any other country, including Pakistan, have asked Nepal to make available a copy of the report.

Newsitem on Bhartiya Uchchayog Karmi Kee Buri Tarah Pitai

†1574. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in Rashtriya Sahara on 17th January, 2000 under the caption "Bhartiya Uchchayog Karmi Kee Buri Tarah Pitai"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government strongly condemned this incident. A strong protest was lodged with Pakistan about the abhorrent behaviour of the Pakistan authorities with Shri P. Moses, a staff member of the Indian-High Commission in Islamabad. Government also rejected the false and baseless allegations made by the Government of Pakistan against Shri Moses and reminded it that such action was grossly violative of Pakistan's internatioal and bilateral obligations.

Connecting Madhya Pradesh with an International Gateway Hub

†1575. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to promote internet facilities for giving impetus to information technology;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to accord the approval on the proposal submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for connecting the Bhopal and Indore cities of the State with an international gateway hub; and

(c) if so, by when this approval will be granted to the State?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.